

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04706 150854Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BEIRUT 4706

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, LE, US
SUBJECT: LEBANON AND SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: USUN 3170

1. DURING OUR AUGUST 14 MEETING AT PALACE BOUTROS ASKED, IN FRONT OF SARKIS, FOR MY LATEST ASSESSMENT ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA FOR LEBANON TO FILE COMPLAINT IN SECURITY COUNCIL AGAINST ISRAEL OVER NON-IMPLEMENTATION RESOLUTION 425. I SAID THAT THE THREAT OF SUCH A MEETING WAS PROBABLY MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ACTUALLY HAVING ONE. IN FIRST PLACE, COUNCIL WOULD NOT PRODUCE A RESOLUTION ANY MORE FAVORABLE THAN 425, AND EVEN IF IT DID WE ALL KNEW ISRAEL WOULD IGNORE IT. IN SECOND PLACE, ONCE CARD OF MEETING WAS PLAYED, IT WAS GONE. THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE POLITICALLY NECESSARY, BUT WE WERE MAKING SOME PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATING AN ARRANGEMENT AND THAT PROGRESS WOULD PERHAPS BE NEGATED IF THE COUNCIL MET AND CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL RESULTED. (IN AN EARLIER MEETING I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT GOI HAD OFFICIALLY AGREED TO MOVE OF BATTALION AND COULD QUITE PROPERLY CLAIM THAT BATTALION WAS BLOCKED BY LEBANESE, NOT
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ISRAELIS.)

2. BOUTROS THEN ASKED WHY WALDHEIM DID NOT PRESENT REPORT TO COUNCIL SAYING ISRAEL WAS BLOCKING 425. I SAID IT NOT FOR ME TO SAY WHAT SYG SHOULD DO, BUT I ASSUMED ARGUMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE OUTLINED ABOVE WEIGHED HEAVILY WITH HIM. WHAT WOULD SUCH A COMPLAINT BY HIM ACCOMPLISH ON THE GROUND? VERY LITTLE,

I FEARED.

3. NOTE: I BELIEVE BOUTROS IS CONVINCED BY THESE ARGUMENTS BUT WANTED ME TO REPEAT THEM IN FRONT OF SARKIS. AUGUST 15 PRESS REPORTS I TOOK NEGATIVE POSITION ON QUESTION AND IMPLIES IT WAS BECAUSE OF CAMP DAVID MEETING.

4. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SEND US SOME.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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